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COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 29 March 1954

SUBJECT Coal Supplies of the East German Railroads

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SOURCE

1. According to official records, the following daily consumption quotas for locomotive and shop coal were fixed effective 8 January 1954:

Railroad District	Coal for Locomotives (in Tons)	Shop Coal
Berlin	3,350	580
Greifswald	1,350	100
Schwerin	1,800	100
Magdeburg	3,000	220
Halle	4,700	580
Erfurt	4,000	320
Dresden	4,400	580
Cottbus	1,900	120

Total: 24,500 2,600 1

2. According to official railroad records, the following coal stocks were available in East Germany on 13 and 15 January:

Date in January	Hard Coal	Brown Coal Brikettes (in Tons)	Shop Coal (in Terms of Briquette Units)
13	62,400	28,100	35,600
	57,800	39,800	34,800

As a result of insufficient deliveries railroad coal stocks dwindled to a critical low. In early January, the Ministry of Railroads repeatedly made this critical situation known to the Government and demanded immediate deliveries of East German brown coal. 3

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3. On 13 January 1954, the State Secretariat for Coal decreed that deliveries of brown coal for household purposes be discontinued in order to safeguard railroad operations. Source stated that coal stocks kept in government storage depots will soon have to be drawn upon unless coal shipments arrive from abroad in the near future.

25X1 [] At a conference held at the Ministry of Railroads, the State Secretariat for Coal had no detailed information on the amount of coal available as a state reserve and the points where these coal reserves are being kept. Emergency coal reserves are not available to the East German railroad administration.

25X1A. [] following information on coal stocks from official records of the Ministry of Railroads:

- a. Shop coal, expressed in days' requirements available between 6 and 13 January:

Railroad District	Date in January						
	6	7	8	9/10	11	12	13
Berlin	10,8	11,3	10,9	9,8	9,7	9,6	9,3
Greifswald	9,6	10,1	9,6	8,2	7,8	7,3	6,9
Schwerin	6,2	7,0	4,8	4,6	4,9	5,0	4,9
Magdeburg	11,9	12,0	11,7	10,1	10,1	9,1	9,3
Halle	6,1	6,8	5,2	4,0	4,2	3,8	3,7
Erfurt	6,0	6,0	4,7	3,4	2,8	2,5	2,3
Dresden	5,4	6,2	4,2	3,5	3,1	2,9	3,2
Gottbus	4,7	5,0	4,2	3,4	3,2	2,9	2,5
Total	7,5	8,1	6,6	5,7	5,7	5,2	5,0

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- b. Total coal stocks, expressed in tons, available on 8 and 13 January:

Type of Coal	8 January	13 January
hard coal	78,996	62,419
briquettes	21,318	28,159
coal dust	593	634
raw brown coal	1,152	1,202

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- 25X1A 1. [] Comment. As compared with December, the daily coal consumption quota for locomotives was decreased by 500 tons, while that for shop coal was increased by 350 tons. [] 25X1A

- 25X1A 2. [] Comment. Coal stocks continued to decrease [] 25X1A
 25X1A [] Expressed in briquette units, coal stocks available on 13 January amounted to 93,629 tons of hard coal, 28,159 tons of brown coal briquettes, 634 tons of coal dust, and 481 tons of raw brown coal, i.e. a total of 122,903 tons. According to the daily coal consumption quota of 24,500 tons, coal stocks available on 13 January were adequate for 5 days' requirements. The result of this calculation corresponds to the amount of coal reported for 13 January in paragraph 4 of the present report.

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25X1A 3. Comment. The urgent appeal made by the East German Railroad Ministry to the Government with regard to the critical coal situation appears very plausible in view of the fact that railroad coal stocks decreased to about a fifth of normal stocks. A shortage of hard coal led to the resumption of brown coal firing by locomotives, which again necessitated drastic cuts in the coal supply to households. It is believed that the measures taken will detrimentally affect the morale of the East German population.